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The WOOL SITUATION

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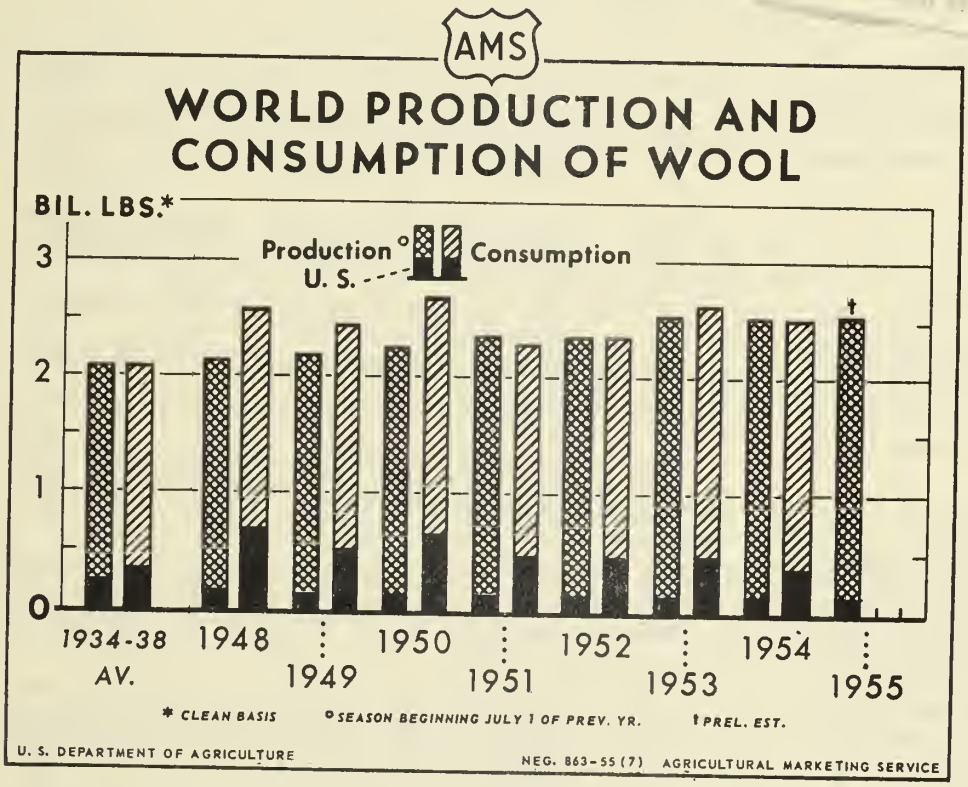

* CLEAN BASIS ° SEASON BEGINNING JULY 1 OF PREV. YR.

World production of wool during 1954 was up slightly from the previous season to a record high about 23 percent above prewar. Production has increased each year since 1947. A slight further increase is forecast for 1955.

World consumption during 1954 is estimated to have been about 4 percent less than in 1953. The lower total last year was largely a reflection of the sharp decline in the United States. Except for 1950 and 1953, the world total last year was higher than for any other postwar year and about 21 percent above prewar.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1954 Apr.	1954 May	1954 June	1954 July	1955 Apr.	1955 May	1955 June	1955 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	53.6	54.6	55.3	54.7	48.7	46.9	44.7	44.0	80
Parity price	Cents per pound	59.1	59.4	58.9	58.5	59.6	59.2	59.2	59.0	101
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	91	92	94	94	82	79	76	75	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	168.8	173.1	176.7	175.6	149.5	147.5	143.5	142.5	81
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	157.5	157.5	138.1	137.5	133.5	132.5	84
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	127.2	131.2	135.0	135.0	119.8	117.5	117.5	116.2	86
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	114.2	117.9	122.2	122.3	112.5	112.5	109.5	109.5	90
Low 1/4 blood	do.	102.5	103.1	109.0	110.0	105.0	105.0	103.0	102.5	93
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	99.5	100.0	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	98
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	172.5	174.8	181.4	181.0	153.8	152.5	145.0	143.8	79
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	141.0	147.6	149.0	149.5	131.9	127.5	124.9	125.8	84
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	116.0	118.4	118.7	116.6	109.5	107.2	106.6	108.6	93
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	110.0	112.5	112.8	113.5	103.6	101.5	101.9	102.2	90
Low 1/4 blood	do.	102.5	103.0	107.7	108.5	101.1	98.5	98.5	98.5	91
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	100
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	175.9	177.4	185.0	185.0	151.2	148.8	146.7	145.0	78
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	162.5	163.1	170.0	170.0	137.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	78
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	152.5	152.5	160.0	160.0	130.0	127.5	123.5	122.5	77
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	86
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	86
64's combing	do.	162.5	163.8	167.5	167.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	85
58's, 60's combing	do.	142.5	143.8	147.5	147.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	86
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	124.4	131.2	132.5	132.5	120.5	120.5	120.5	120.5	91
1's (56's)	do.	115.6	122.2	122.5	122.5	112.0	112.0	113.1	117.5	96
2's (50's)	do.	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	106.9	112.5	107
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	95.4	99.0	105
4's (44's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	94.5	94.5	95.4	99.0	114
5's (40's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	94.5	94.5	94.7	95.5	110
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	34.2	34.4	34.2	34.4	33.6	33.9	34.0	33.8	98
Man-made staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	4/	109
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	100
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	100
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ Average of 10 markets.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ Not available.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 5, 1955

SUMMARY

With world supply slightly larger and demand easier, prices of wool in world markets have been below a year earlier since last September when the 1954-55 British Dominion marketing season opened. In general, declines in quotations for U. S. domestic wools tended to come later than the declines in world markets. In early June, however, the relationship between quotations for domestic wools and prices abroad was about the same as a year earlier. Late in July, quotations for domestic fine wools were between 15 and 25 percent below a year earlier, while quotations for quarterblood and lower wools were less than 10 percent below a year earlier.

The CCC loan program supported prices received by growers last season. Consequently, the price decline in world markets was not fully reflected in prices received by United States growers for shorn wool until the current marketing season when the incentive payments program went into effect. Since then, growers' prices have declined at an accelerated rate to levels more nearly in line with prices in world markets.

Even though prices received for the season average considerably below the 53.9 cents of last season, the national average return per pound (average price received plus average payment) will be substantially larger. The Government payment to the individual producer will be equivalent to the average price he received times the percentage needed to bring the average return of all producers up to the incentive level of 62 cents. Therefore, even though the quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn this year has been estimated at 228 million pounds, grease, about 2 percent less than last year, gross returns (receipts from sales in the open market plus Government payments) from 1955 shorn wool production will be substantially larger than last year. Combined output of shorn and pulled wool this year is expected to be not much different from last year.

World production is expected to total at least 4,475 million pounds, equivalent to about 2,585 million pounds of clean wool, an increase of 2 percent over 1954 and a record high.

Stocks of apparel wool in the United States at the end of the first quarter are reported to have been about 160 million pounds, 10 million pounds, scoured basis, or 7 percent above a year earlier. Practically all of the increase was in CCC holdings which accounted for about a third of the total. Relative to the rate of consumption, stocks of apparel wool were slightly lower than a year earlier. Stocks of carpet wool at the end of the first quarter and at mid-year were slightly lower than a year earlier, both in quantity and relative to the rate of consumption.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1954 Feb.	1954 Mar.	1954 Apr.	1954 May	1955 Feb.	1955 Mar.	1955 Apr.	1955 May 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	6.8	10.0	9.8	9.7	8.7	12.1	10.7	11.2	115
60's and finer	do.	3.5	5.9	5.4	4.5	4.8	6.8	6.3	7.1	158
56's - 60's	do.	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.6	1.8	1.5	94
50's - 56's	do.	.8	1.2	1.2	1.4	.6	1.3	1.1	.8	57
44's - 50's	do.	.3	.5	.4	.4	.4	.5	.2	.3	75
40's - 44's	do.	.4	.4	.3	.6	.5	.6	.4	.3	50
Not finer than 40's	do.	.6	.8	.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.9	82
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.3	300
Duty-free	do.	7.1	7.2	11.3	9.4	8.6	13.9	12.1	11.9	127
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	3.3	3.2	5.1	5.0	4.7	8.5	6.6	6.5	130
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.8	4.0	6.2	4.4	3.9	5.4	5.5	5.4	123
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	15.6	25.6	35.5	45.2	19.9	31.9	42.7	53.8	119
60's and finer	do.	9.5	15.4	20.8	25.3	12.2	18.9	25.2	32.3	128
56's - 60's	do.	1.6	2.7	4.2	5.9	2.5	4.0	5.9	7.4	125
50's - 56's	do.	2.0	3.2	4.4	5.7	1.5	2.7	3.9	4.6	81
44's - 50's	do.	.4	.9	1.3	1.7	.7	1.1	1.3	1.6	94
40's - 44's	do.	.5	.9	1.1	1.8	.8	1.4	1.8	2.1	117
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.3	2.1	2.9	3.9	1.8	3.0	3.8	4.6	118
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.3	.4	.7	.8	.3	.5	.6	.9	112
Duty-free	do.	14.9	22.1	33.4	42.9	16.2	30.1	42.2	54.1	126
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	7.0	10.2	15.3	20.3	9.2	17.7	24.3	30.8	152
Not finer than 40's	do.	7.9	11.9	18.1	22.6	7.0	12.4	17.9	23.3	103
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	10.4	15.8	15.6	15.2	13.4	18.3	16.4	16.9	111
Duty-free	do.	10.4	10.5	16.7	13.5	11.9	19.1	17.1	16.4	121
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,681	5,424	5,681	5,874	100
60's and finer	do.	2,467	2,649	2,909	3,108	2,964	2,923	3,066	3,152	101
50's up to 60's	do.	1,671	1,561	1,817	1,952	2,045	1,873	1,942	1,972	101
48's and coarser	do.	778	684	750	791	672	628	673	750	95
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	2,549	2,535	2,554	2,584	123
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	38.3	62.7	84.7	108.1	44.1	71.2	93.9	117.4	109
60's and finer	do.	19.4	32.6	44.3	56.7	23.8	38.5	50.7	63.3	112
50's up to 60's	do.	13.1	21.0	28.2	36.0	15.2	24.5	32.3	40.2	112
48's and coarser	do.	5.8	9.1	12.2	15.4	5.1	8.2	10.9	13.9	90
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	20.1	32.0	41.4	49.8	20.2	32.8	43.0	53.4	107
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.		54.7				68.9			126
Government orders	do.		.9				1.8			200
Men's and boys' wear	do.		26.4				35.7			135
Women's and children's wear	do.		27.4				31.4			115
Non-apparel fabrics	do.		7.9				4.6			58
Blanketing	do.		4.5				2.6			58
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		3.4				2.0			59
Total woven fabrics	do.		62.6				73.5			117

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Domestic woolen and worsted mills used about 7 percent more apparel and 11 percent more carpet wool during January-June than a year earlier. The weekly rate of carpet wool consumption during June was 29 percent above a year earlier, but the rate for apparel wool was 2 percent below. With economic activity and consumer purchasing power likely to rise further in coming months, the totals for the year are likely to be higher than for 1954. The higher level of woolen and worsted activity has been reflected in increased imports of both dutiable and duty-free wool early this year over early 1954.

World consumption during the first quarter is estimated to have been about 3 percent above the previous quarter and about 2 percent above a year earlier. The increase, however, largely reflected the higher activity in the United States.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices in Foreign Markets Substantially Below Year Ago

Prices of fine wools declined sharply with the opening of the 1954-55 selling season in the British Dominions and continued down through March. Changes during the rest of the season, which ended late in June, were slight. At the closing sales, prices of fine wools were 20 to 25 percent below a year earlier.

Prices of crossbred wools also declined at the opening sales. In general, however, the declines were somewhat less than those for fine wools. Prices of crossbreds tended to rise as the season progressed. At the closing sales, prices of most crossbreds were less than 10 percent below a year earlier.

Prices of fine wools during the closing week of the July auctions at London were about 10 percent lower than they were at the May series. (See table 1.) The declines for most crossbred descriptions were in the neighborhood of 5 percent.

Boston Quotations Reflect Decline in World Markets

The decline in prices abroad has been reflected in price quotations for wool at Boston. Boston quotations for Australian wools declined sharply from November into early February. Changes since then have been very slight.

Declines in quotations for domestic wools tended to lag the declines in foreign markets. However, by early June, the relationship between quotations for domestic wools and prices in foreign markets was about the same as a year earlier. Late in July, quotations for domestic fine wools were between 15 and 25 percent below a year earlier (table 2). Quotations for domestic quarterblood and lower wools were less than 10 percent below a year earlier.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1953-55

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine cross-bred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	103.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 25	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	149.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May 13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May 20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July 15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July 22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended July 29, 1955 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1954 week ended July 30	1955 week ended April 8	1955 week ended July 29	Percent change week ended July 29 from		
					average 1947-49	July 30, 1954	April 8, 1955
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	174.5	151.5	142.5	- 6.1	-18.3	- 6.0
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	157.5	137.5	132.5	- 3.4	-15.9	- 3.6
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	135.0	122.5	114.5	+ 4.9	-15.2	- 6.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	123.0	112.5	109.5	+ 9.5	-11.0	- 2.7
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	110.0	105.0	102.5	+14.0	- 6.8	- 2.4
Common and braid	83.5	100.0	97.5	97.5	+16.8	- 2.5	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	181.0	155.0	142.5	- 7.8	-21.3	- 8.1
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	150.0	137.5	125.5	- 4.6	-16.3	- 8.7
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	118.5	112.5	107.5	+ 4.2	- 9.3	- 4.4
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	113.5	107.5	100.5	+ 3.6	-11.5	- 6.5
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	108.5	102.5	98.5	+25.6	- 9.2	- 3.9
Common and braid	73.4	97.5	97.5	97.5	+32.8	0	0
Original bag-shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	185.0	155.0	142.5	- 5.6	-23.0	- 8.1
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	170.0	142.5	132.5	+ 9.5	-22.1	- 7.0
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	160.0	132.5	122.5	+10.6	-23.4	- 7.6

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

United States Farm Prices
Lower than Year Ago

The 1954 CCC loan program under which the average loan rate was 53.2 cents per pound, grease basis, supported prices received by growers until the opening of the current marketing season. Although the mid-month average of prices received declined during the latter part of last season, the decline was somewhat less than the decline in world markets. With the beginning of the current season when the payments program went into effect, growers' prices declined at an accelerated rate to levels more nearly in line with prices in world markets. The average at mid-July was 44.0 cents per pound, grease basis, compared with 54.7 cents a year earlier.

Present indications are that the seasonal average of prices received will be considerably below the 53.9 cents of last season. However, the average return per pound will be larger since growers will be eligible for Government payments after the close of the season. The payment to the individual producer will be equivalent to the average price he received times the percentage needed to bring the average return of all producers up to the incentive level of 62 cents.

Shorn Wool Production
Down a Little This Year

Domestic shorn wool production this year is estimated at 228 million pounds, grease basis, 2 percent less than was produced last year (table 3). The reduction reflects a decrease in the number of sheep shorn. The estimate of the number shorn, 26.9 million head, is about 2 percent lower than last year. The average fleece weight of 8.49 pounds compares with 8.48 pounds in 1954.

Production in the "Native" or "fleece" wool States is estimated at 68.1 million pounds compared with 68.3 million pounds last year. The average fleece weight was 7.83 pounds compared with 7.72 pounds last year.

The estimate of shorn wool production in the 13 Western sheep States is 159.9 million pounds, 3 percent less than in 1954. The average fleece weight, 8.81 pounds, compared with 8.85 pounds last year. Production was smaller than last year in all of these States except Montana and South Dakota. Output in Texas, which accounted for 18.6 percent of total United States production, was 4 percent below 1954.

World Production
Continues to Rise

The first Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of world wool production in 1955 is 4,475 million pounds, grease basis, compared with the revised estimate of 4,390 million pounds for 1954. The 1955 output is expected to be equivalent to about 2,585 million pounds, clean basis, about 2 percent above 1954.

The FAS estimates for 1955 shown in table 4 indicate increases in Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, Soviet Union, and some of the countries of the Middle East. Changes, if any, in the rest of the world are expected to be small. A more recent forecast of 1955 production

Table 3.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, and shorn wool production, United States, 1940-55

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373
1953	27,756	8.30	230,395
1954	27,417	8.48	232,629
1955	26,855	8.49	228,013

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year.

in Australia was made jointly by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers and the Australian Wool Growers' Council after consultation with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This indicates a 1955-56 production of 1,331 million pounds. The 1954 estimate has been revised upward from 1,280 to 1,288 million pounds.

During 1954, production increased sharply in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. Marked declines occurred in Argentina and the Soviet Union.

Table 4.- Wool, grease basis: Production in specified countries, 1948-55

Continent and country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/	1955 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America								
Canada	11.9	9.8	9.5	6.9	7.7	8.6	8.5	9.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	272.6	276.1	276.0
Estimated total 2/	302.3	270.5	271.2	272.5	290.0	295.0	300.0	300.0
Europe								
United Kingdom	81.0	88.0	89.0	91.8	102.0	105.0	107.9	108.0
Eire	12.2	12.0	13.7	14.0	15.4	16.5	17.5	18.5
France	29.3	33.9	35.0	40.0	41.9	41.9	48.5	50.0
Spain	88.0	82.0	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0	95.0	95.0
Portugal	18.0	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.7	22.7
Italy	28.9	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0	33.7	33.0	31.5
Germany (Western)	21.0	19.2	15.3	15.4	14.8	12.8	11.9	11.0
Estimated total 2/ 3/	433.4	448.3	464.8	476.3	495.0	505.0	515.0	515.0
Asia								
Iran	29.8	24.7	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5	38.6	39.0
Iraq	32.7	26.7	28.7	30.0	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5
Syria	12.1	10.0	13.0	15.0	19.6	20.3	21.0	21.0
Turkey	75.5	70.9	67.2	72.9	77.9	81.6	79.6	82.0
India	53.0	46.2	50.5	52.0	51.0	51.0	51.0	51.0
Pakistan	26.0	27.0	27.8	27.2	30.0	30.0	28.0	30.0
Estimated total 2/	369.6	346.4	362.3	374.8	390.0	400.0	395.0	400.0
South America								
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	365.0	365.0
Brazil	45.2	48.5	47.4	51.8	50.7	52.5	52.0	53.0
Chile	41.9	46.3	41.9	41.9	44.1	39.7	38.6	39.0
Peru	17.2	18.7	19.2	19.6	19.8	20.1	20.3	20.0
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	198.4	200.0
Estimated total 2/	685.0	707.7	739.5	736.5	730.0	730.0	690.0	695.0
Africa								
Algeria	12.0	15.6	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0	26.0	26.0
French Morocco	28.0	30.0	33.1	35.3	36.0	31.5	36.4	36.0
Tunisia	7.9	8.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	12.3	11.8	12.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	264.6	280.0	290.0
Estimated total 2/	279.4	283.0	304.6	323.5	345.0	350.0	370.0	380.0
Oceania								
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,092.0	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,246.0	1,280.0	1,315.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	425.0	450.0	460.0
Estimated total 2/	1,398.1	1,500.1	1,482.1	1,486.8	1,700.0	1,670.0	1,730.0	1,775.0
Estimated world total 4/	3,770.0	3,890.0	3,970.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,350.0	4,390.0	4,475.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 3/ Excludes U. S. S. R. 4/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service and of Agricultural Estimates Division A. M. S.

Imports of Dutiable Wool Higher than Early Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption each month from January through May were above a year earlier. The total was 82 million pounds, actual weight, or 54 million pounds, clean content. The clean content total was about one-fifth above that of the same months of last year. Imports were larger for all grade categories. The increase over last year reflects the higher level of mill use of apparel wool.

Imports of Duty-free Wool Also Above Early Last Year

Imports of duty-free wool for consumption during the first 5 months of this year came to 75 million pounds, actual weight, or 54 million pounds, clean content, about one-fourth more than early last year. Duty-free imports of "named" wools were 52 percent larger than a year earlier. Duty-free imports of wools not finer than 40's were up 3 percent.

Table 5.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1952-53, 1953-54, and 1954-55 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia 2/	908	940	860
New Zealand 3/	207	207	212
Union of South Africa 2/	191	202	218
Argentina 4/	275	70	104
Uruguay 2/	154	55	44

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through April. 3/ Through February. 4/ Through March.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

April Stocks of Apparel Wool Up a Little From a Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that stocks of apparel wool at the end of the first quarter totaled 160 million pounds, scoured basis, 10 million pounds or almost 7 percent above a year earlier (table 6). Less than 2 million pounds of the increase was in topmaker and manufacturer holdings which amounted to 60 million pounds. The remainder of the increase was reported in dealer holdings, which include wool under loan and CCC holdings.

Table 6.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-55 1/

Year	Held by						Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Manufacturers			Dealers and U. S. Government				Manufacturers	Dealers and U. S. Government	Total
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average	36,118	3/ 19,891	3/ 56,009	40,470	3/ 12,696	3/ 53,166	3/109,175	10.7	10.1	20.8
1940	28,653	28,431	57,084	22,353	15,377	37,730	94,814	11.0	7.3	18.3
1941	29,749	50,258	80,007	14,517	20,058	34,575	114,582	9.0	3.9	12.9
1942	41,242	76,936	118,178	25,539	140,775	166,314	284,492	11.0	15.5	26.5
1943	40,533	64,936	105,469	19,429	189,890	209,319	314,788	8.8	17.5	26.3
1944	23,160	88,444	111,604	92,695	203,277	295,972	407,576	9.5	25.2	34.7
1945	22,833	116,525	139,358	137,145	72,974	210,119	349,477	10.9	16.4	27.3
1946	16,998	122,225	139,223	214,925	67,230	282,155	421,378	12.1	24.5	36.6
1947	32,200	111,995	144,195	212,379	47,654	260,033	404,228	12.4	22.4	34.8
1948	52,720	94,633	147,353	163,451	35,648	199,099	346,452	14.1	19.0	33.1
1949	37,945	57,712	95,657	86,504	17,160	103,664	199,321	14.7	15.9	30.6
1950	36,300	54,824	91,124	36,053	16,058	52,111	143,235	10.8	6.2	17.0
1951	28,510	83,360	111,870	7,042	11,292	18,334	130,204	14.7	2.4	17.1
1952	20,848	54,795	75,643	34,836	20,352	55,188	130,831	12.6	9.2	21.8
1953	30,643	49,822	80,465	68,158	14,477	82,635	163,100	10.9	11.1	22.0
1954	24,323	34,144	58,467	80,103	11,126	91,229	149,696	12.1	18.9	31.0
1955 4/	27,442	32,686	60,128	87,288	12,145	99,433	159,561	11.0	18.2	29.2

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4. Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks held in bond, and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense (1951 and 1952), wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers. 2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption. 3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat. 4/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

Holdings of foreign wools, 45 million pounds, were about 1 million pounds lower than a year earlier with dealer holdings up about 1 million pounds and topmaker and manufacturer holdings down about 2 million pounds.

Stocks of domestic wool, 115 million pounds, were a little over 10 million pounds larger than a year earlier. Topmaker and manufacturer holdings, almost 28 million pounds, were about 3 million pounds larger than in early 1954. The Census report does not show a breakdown of dealer holdings. But information relating to CCC operations suggests CCC holdings were in the neighborhood of 54 million pounds, an increase of about 9 million pounds, and that about 20 million pounds were under loan, an increase of about a million pounds. This suggests dealers' holdings at about 13 million pounds, a decline of about 3 million pounds from a year earlier.

Total reported holdings were equivalent to about 29 weeks of mill consumption at the January-March rate compared with 31 weeks a year earlier. This was, except for 1954, the highest since 1949. Topmaker and manufacturer stocks were equivalent to about 11 weeks of consumption compared with 12.1 in early 1954. The range during the last 6 years was 10.8 to 14.7 weeks.

CCC Holdings Larger
Than A Year Ago

As of June 30, the Commodity Credit Corporation held about 152 million pounds, actual weight, or about 68 million pounds, clean, of wool acquired under the 1952-54 wool price support programs (table 7). A year earlier, the CCC held about 119 million pounds, actual weight, or about 61 million pounds, clean.

Of the total held on June 30, about 45 million pounds, actual, or roughly 20 million pounds, clean, were acquired under the 1954 program. The take-over under the 1954 program occurred in May 1955. CCC acquired a total of 182 million pounds, actual weight, or about 87 million pounds, clean, under the 1952, 1953, and 1954 programs.

Effective through October, wool held by the CCC will not be available for sale at less than 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates plus selling commission. With the recent lowering of selling prices of pulled wools, selling prices of all wools are now at their minimum levels.

Stocks of Carpet Wool
a Little Lower than Year Ago

Stocks of carpet wool at the end of the first quarter amounted to about 29 million pounds, scoured basis, about 3 million pounds less than a year earlier (table 8). Spinners' holdings, which amounted to a little more than 26 million pounds and accounted for 91 percent of the total, were down about a million pounds. Dealers' holdings were about 2 million pounds lower than a year earlier.

Total holdings were equivalent to about 12 weeks of mill consumption at the January-March rate. A year earlier, stocks were equivalent to about 13 weeks at the rate of consumption at that time.

Stocks at the end of the second quarter were about 3 million pounds above three months earlier but about 3 million pounds lower than at mid-1954.

Table 7.- CCC holdings of wool acquired under 1952,1953, and 1954 programs, June 30, 1955

	Program year			Total
	1952	1953	1954	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Shorn				
Greasy	69.4	28.8	44.2	142.4
Scoured	.4	.1	.1	.6
Total shorn	69.8	28.9	44.3	143.0
Pulled				
Greasy	1.9	1.7	.1	3.7
Scoured	1.3	3.5	.7	5.5
Total pulled	3.2	5.2	.8	9.2
Total	73.0	34.1	45.1	152.2

From Commodity Stabilization Service.

World Wool Consumption Up From Early Last Year

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that world consumption of wool during the first quarter of 1955 was about 3 percent above that of the previous 3 months and about 2 percent above a year earlier. Changes in the rates from a year earlier for the 11 countries which furnish the Commonwealth Economic Committee with estimates ranged from a decline of 17 percent in Italy to an increase of 32 percent in Canada.

Total consumption of materials other than virgin wool by the wool textile industries of these countries was up about 5 percent from a year earlier but unchanged from the previous quarter.

World consumption during 1954 is now estimated at 2,510 million pounds, clean. This was about 104 million pounds less than in 1953 (table 9) and below 1950, but higher than in any other post-war year and about 21 percent higher than prewar. It was slightly lower than estimated production during the 1953-54 season.

Table 8.- Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-55 1/

Year	Held by		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Dealers	Manufacturers		Dealers	Manufacturers	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average 3/	3,249	28,642	31,891	1.7	15.2	16.9
1940	1,726	38,572	40,298	.9	19.5	20.4
1941	665	36,101	36,766	.3	14.4	14.7
1942	14,019	61,821	75,840	10.0	44.3	54.3
1943	9,093	38,563	47,656	13.8	58.4	72.2
1944	2,202	27,231	29,433	2.7	33.8	36.5
1945	2,082	46,389	48,471	2.5	55.4	57.9
1946	7,913	62,216	70,134	3.4	26.6	30.0
1947	12,297	81,207	93,504	3.9	25.7	29.6
1948	14,727	68,001	82,728	3.7	17.1	20.8
1949	12,560	49,432	61,992	3.2	12.5	15.7
1950	5,298	49,207	54,505	1.3	12.4	13.7
1951	4,442	40,542	44,984	1.3	12.0	13.3
1952	6,214	27,824	34,038	2.6	11.7	14.3
1953	8,596	33,306	41,902	2.8	10.7	13.5
1954	4,578	27,399	31,977	1.9	11.1	13.0
1955 4/	2,740	26,430	29,170	1.1	10.5	11.6

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Includes stocks held on consignment and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation. 2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption. 3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat. 4/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

United States Mill Use of Apparel
Wool Up Relative to Last Year

Domestic woolen and worsted mills used 145 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool during the first half of this year. The total was about 9 million pounds or 7 percent over early 1954. The rate of consumption was above a year earlier for each of the first 5 months (table 10). However, the rate during June, the latest month for which information is available, was 2 percent below a year earlier.

Mill use of the two grade categories, 50's up to 60's and 60's and finer, was up 10 percent from early last year but use of 48's and coarser was down 12 percent (table 11). The first two categories accounted for 54.1 and 34.2 percent, respectively, of the total compared with 52.6 and 33.3 percent last year.

Table 9.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1947-55

Item	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,142	2,135	2,185	2,253	2,329	2,354	2,526	2,540 3/	2,555
Consumption	2,450	2,574	2,449	2,681	2,277	2,352	2,614 2/	2,510	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

The increase in total reported consumption reflects an increase of almost 13 million pounds or 20 percent on the woolen system. Use on the worsted system was down almost 4 million pounds or 5 percent. The proportion of the total accounted for by the worsted system, 47.9 percent, was the lowest of record back to 1918 (table 12).

The revised total of woolen and worsted mill use last year, 266 million pounds, was 92 million pounds or 26 percent below that of 1953 and was the lowest since 1938. The rate of consumption on the worsted system was, except for 1934, the lowest of record back to 1918.

Domestic Mill Use of Carpet Wool
Also Up From Last Year

United States mills consumed 65 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet (duty-free foreign) wool during January-June. Consumption during the same months of 1954 came to 59 million pounds. The rate during June was 29 percent above a year earlier (table 10).

Table 10.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-55

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,556	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,337	5,681	5,424	5,681	5,874	5,474						
Carpet	2,490	2,549	2,535	2,554	2,584	2,307						
Total	7,827	8,230	7,959	8,235	8,458	7,781						

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-June 1946-55

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.4	60.6	63.8	54.2	56.8	58.0	53.6	50.0	52.6	54.1
50's and up to 60's	31.4	26.2	25.5	35.0	33.7	32.4	34.0	36.7	33.3	34.2
48's and coarser	14.2	13.2	10.7	10.8	9.5	9.6	12.4	13.3	14.1	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-June 1946-55

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	57.6	63.5	66.2	59.2	67.3	63.9	52.7	58.8	53.8	47.9
Woolen	42.4	36.5	33.8	40.8	32.7	36.1	47.3	41.2	46.2	52.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-55

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.2	67.8	67.4	68.8	72.8	70.1							
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1							
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.0	8.3	9.5	7.5	5.9	5.8							
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.6	21.5	20.6	20.7	18.4	21.0							
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.7	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0							

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

In addition to the above-mentioned quantity of raw wool, woolen mills also used 29 million pounds of other fiber compared with 21 million pounds in early 1954 (table 13). Man-made fiber accounted for 20 million pounds of the January-June 1955 total. In early 1954, 12 million pounds of such fiber were used.

The increase over a year earlier in the use of wool and other fiber in the spinning of carpet yarn on the woolen system has been reflected in increased output of woven carpets and rugs. Production during the first 5 months of this year of 25.8 million square yards was 4 percent above that of early 1954. The total for the year 1954, 55.3 million square yards, was 17 percent below 1953 and the lowest since 1946 (table 14).

Table 14.- Production of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1950-55 1/

Month	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
January	6,635	7,544	5,252	6,552	4,759	4,894
February	6,802	7,297	4,973	6,589	5,076	4,932
March	8,073	7,286	5,445	7,227	5,663	5,914
April	7,087	6,819	5,861	6,929	5,024	5,346
May	6,998	5,411	5,051	5,436	4,264	4,684
June	8,129	4,858	3,057	5,388	4,344	
July	4,061	1,849	2,512	3,111	2,374	
August	7,153	3,633	4,562	5,017	4,565	
September	7,689	3,615	5,775	5,447	5,169	
October	7,942	4,436	7,254	5,867	5,093	
November	8,024	3,976	5,904	4,353	4,101	
December	7,148	3,917	6,442	4,921	4,883	
Total	85,741	60,641	62,088	66,837	55,315	

1/ Includes woven Axminister, Chenille, Velvet, and Wilton type fabrics but excludes hooked, tufted, rag or automobile carpets and rugs.
From Carpet Institute, Incorporated.

The lower levels of consumption of carpet wool and production of woven carpets and rugs after 1950 reflect in part the rapid expansion of output of tufted floor coverings. Some indication of this expansion can be obtained from data on yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products (table 15). Although the figures include all products of the tufting industry, the greatest expansion has occurred in carpets and rugs. So far, wool has not been an important fiber in the tufting process.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric
Output Up from Last Year

Production of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric containing 50 percent or more wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool by weight) during the first quarter totaled 73.5 million linear yards (table 16). Production during the first quarter of 1954 amounted to 62.6 million yards. The increase of 17 percent represents the net effect of an increase of 26 percent in output of apparel fabric and a decline of 42 percent in production of non-apparel fabric.

Production of apparel fabric toward Government orders increased from about 0.9 million yards to 1.8 million yards. Output of men's and boys' wear fabrics totaled 35.8 million yards, an increase of 35 percent from the first quarter of 1954. Production of women's and children's wear fabric during the first quarter, 31.4 million yards, was up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Blanketing accounted for 2.6 million of the 4.6 million yards of non-apparel fabric produced. Output of blanketing was 41 percent below a year earlier. Output of other non-apparel fabric was down 43 percent.

In addition to the above yardage, 2.7 million pounds of woven felt were produced. The total was about 5 percent above a year earlier.

Table 15.- Yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products, United States, 1951-54

Yarn	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cotton	54.6	74.3	86.3	43.6
Rayon and acetate	1.0	2.2	7.9	11.5
Other	.3	.6	.4	.2
Total	55.9	77.1	94.6	55.3

1/ January-June.

From Facts for Industry Series M 15 S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-March 1951-55 1/

Fabric	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Percentage change 1955 from 1954
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	99,797	86,192	86,152	62,601	73,510	+17.4
Apparel	85,763	74,721	72,735	54,698	68,941	+26.0
Government orders	10,521	23,093	8,192	893	1,823	+104.1
Other than Government orders	75,242	51,628	64,543	53,805	67,118	+24.7
Men's and boys'	39,451	24,121	33,132	2/26,432	2/35,754	+35.3
Woolen	13,323	10,851	14,506	9,781	18,018	+84.2
Worsted	26,128	13,270	18,626	14,978	15,991	+6.8
Women's and children's	35,791	27,507	31,411	2/27,373	2/31,364	+14.6
Woolen	27,339	22,712	26,719	21,402	26,162	+22.2
Worsted	8,452	4,795	4,692	4,074	3,495	-14.2
Non-apparel	14,034	11,471	13,417	7,903	4,569	-42.2
Blanketing	5,116	6,962	7,246	4,455	2,614	-41.3
Government orders	601	2,654	2,552	826	161	-80.5
Other than Government orders	4,515	4,308	4,694	3,629	2,453	-32.4
Other non-apparel	8,918	4,509	6,171	3,448	1,955	-43.3
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	3,292	2,007	2,248	2,605	2,727	+4.7

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch. widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Up From Last Year

During the first half of this year, 18 percent more regular-weight suits, 10 percent more separate dress and sport trousers, and 15 percent more overcoats and topcoats were cut than a year earlier (table 17). However, 1 percent fewer summer-weight suits were cut.

Fabric containing 50 percent or more wool accounted for about the same proportion of the summer-weight suits as a year earlier--37.0 percent compared with 37.2 percent (table 18). Such fabric accounted for a larger proportion of the separate dress and sport trousers--33.3 percent compared with 27.3 percent in 1954.

Cuttings of Women's Outerwear Increase From Early Last Year

Cuttings of most items of women's outerwear during January-May were up from a year earlier. The increases ranged from 3.7 percent for unit-priced dresses to 19.1 percent for skirts (table 19). However, cuttings of coats were down 5.2 percent.

For those items for which information as to the fiber content of the fabric used is available, cuttings from fabrics other than rayon and acetate increased while cuttings from rayon and acetate fabrics decreased or increased less than cuttings from other fabrics (table 20). As a result, other fabrics, including wool, accounted for larger proportions of total cuttings.

Table 17.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1953-55

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1955 from	
	1953 (26 weeks)	1954 (26 weeks)	1955 (26 weeks)	1953	1954
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	11,920	9,944	11,126	-6.7	+11.9
Regular - weight	8,565	6,782	7,995	-6.7	+17.9
50 percent or more wool	7,725	---	---	---	---
Other	840	---	---	---	---
Summer - weight	3,355	3,162	3,131	-6.7	-1.0
50 percent or more wool	1,031	1,176	1,159	+12.4	-1.4
Man-made fibers	2,214	1,863	1,807	-18.4	-3.0
Other	110	123	165	+50.0	+34.1
Separate dress and sport trousers	31,810	30,432	33,360	+4.9	+9.6
50 percent or more wool	8,355	8,304	11,100	+32.9	+33.7
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	20,500)	22,128	22,260	-5.1	+.6
Chiefly cotton	2,955)				
Overcoats and topcoats	2,797	2,049	2,352	-15.9	+14.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1951-55

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits					
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	93.8	92.0	90.2	---	---
Other	6.2	8.0	9.8	---	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	36.8	28.3	30.7	37.2	37.0
Man-made fibers	58.9	68.6	66.0	58.9	57.7
Other	4.3	3.1	3.3	3.9	5.3
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	29.4	29.0	26.3	27.3	33.3
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	65.4	65.7	64.4)	72.7	66.7
Chiefly cotton	5.2	5.3	9.3)		

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-May 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955	Percentage change 1955 from 1954
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	68,653	71,223	+3.7
Rayon and acetate	35,171	34,567	-1.7
Other	34,482	36,656	+9.5
Skirts	28,716	34,188	+19.1
Rayon and acetate	10,092	9,708	-3.8
Other	18,624	24,480	+31.4
Suits	6,049	7,037	+16.3
Rayon and acetate	3,298	3,409	+3.4
Other	2,751	3,628	+31.9
Coats	9,732	9,226	-5.2
Blouses	70,308	79,452	+13.0
Cotton	48,012	55,080	+14.7
Other	22,296	24,372	+9.3

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses' and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-May 1954-55

Type of garment	1954	1955
	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	51.2	48.5
Other	48.8	51.5
Skirts	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	35.1	28.4
Other	64.9	71.6
Suits	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	54.5	48.4
Other	45.5	51.6
Blouses	100.0	100.0
Cotton	68.3	69.3
Other	31.7	30.7

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.